

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION (REF: TODAY'S EPF X-1)

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM HONGKONG STANDARD EITORIAL NOV. 6, TITLED
"ROUGH PASSAGE FOR SAXBE":

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT AT A TIME WHEN IT CAN AFFORD IT LEAST THE
NIXON ADMINISTRATION WILL FACE MAXIMUM EMBARRASSMENT AND
POSSIBLY FAILURE IN ATTEMPTING TO PUSH THROUGH CONFIRMATION FOR
A TOP LAW AND ORDER POST A NOMINEE WHOSE ETHICAL QUALIFICATIONS
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO DOUBT....

2. NOW COMES SENATOR WILLIAM SAXBE, THE MAN NIXON HOPES CAN
MAKE AMERICANS BELIEVE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS CAPABLE OF
ENFORCING THE LAW BUT WHO HAS ALSO INDICATED HE FEELS THE PRESIDENT
HAS THE RIGHT TO BREAK IT.

3. SAXBE'S REMARK, MADE IN HONGKONG LAST AUGUST AND REPORTED
BY THE STANDARD, THAT NIXON SHOULD DESTROY THE WATERGATE TAPES
IF THEY WERE INCRIMINATING AND HIS STATED BELIEF THAT THE PRESIDENT
WOULD DO EXACTLY THAT WILL CERTAINLY BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE WHEN AND
IF HE COMES BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE TO SEEK CONFIRMATION.

4. DESTROYING EVIDENCE SOUGHT BY THE COURTS IS A CRIME UNDER
AMERICAN LAW AND A MAN WHO SUGGEST OR ADVOCATES SUCH ACTION IS
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EXACTLY THE TYPE OF OFFICIAL THE US DOES NOT NEED AT A TIME WHEN

IT IS ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH A PRESIDENT WHO APPARENTLY VIEWS
HIMSELF ABOVE REPROACH IN MATTERS RANGING FROM BURGLARY TO TAX
EVASION.

5. SAXBE IS DESCRIBED AS A FREE-SPEAKING MAVERICK AND SOME PEOPLE
FEEL HIS UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO BE SARCASTIC, BUT AMERICA
NS
ARE FINDING IT MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT THESE DAYS TO LAUGH AT THE
ANTICS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HAVE HAD THEIR FILL OF CYNIC
ISM
AT HIGH LEVELS, ESPECIALLY WHERE THE LAW OF THE LAND IS CONCERNED.

6. IT SEEMS LIKELY THEREFORE THAT THE SENATOR WILL BE JUDGED BY
THE SPIRIT IN WHICH HIS STATEMENT WAS MADE AND WILL GO THE WAY OF
PATRICK GRAY.

IZENBERG

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